

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for protecting a fuel system component disposed on an engine body in a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a protector including a first wall and a second wall connected with the first wall, the first and second walls extending toward the engine body and cooperating with each other to surround the fuel system component, the second wall having one end opposed to the engine body with a clearance; and

a first fastening member fixing the first wall to the engine body,

wherein the protector is spaced apart from the fuel system component.

2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body, the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first fastening member and an abutting portion offset from the fixed portion in an axial direction of the first fastening member and opposed to a circumferential side surface of the first boss with a clearance.

3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body, the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first fastening member and an abutting portion that is arranged so as to be displaced to an abutment position where the abutting portion abuts on a circumferential side surface of the first boss when a load is applied to the protector.

4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed portion and the abutting portion are integrally formed by bending.

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a fragile portion is formed at a bend between the fixed portion and the abutting portion, the fragile portion having a reduced thickness.

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed portion and the abutting portion are connected with each other in an overlapping state.

7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a receptacle portion receiving the one end of the second wall, the receptacle portion being provided on the engine body.

8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the receptacle portion is a recess formed in the engine body.

9. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the engine body is connected with an intake manifold arranged forward of the engine body in a fore-and-aft direction of the vehicle, the protector being arranged within a space defined between the intake manifold and the engine body.

10. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a second fastening member fixing the protector to the intake manifold.

11. (New) An apparatus for protecting a fuel system component disposed on an engine body in a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a protector including a first wall and a second wall connected with the first wall, the first and second walls extending toward the engine body and cooperating with each other to surround the fuel system component, the second wall having one end opposed to the engine body with a clearance;

a first fastening member fixing the first wall to the engine body; and

a receptacle portion receiving the one end of the second wall, the receptacle portion being provided on the engine body.